



CHOSEN FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS!
11.10.20

NOTE TO PARENTS from Ps Luke Aiasecca

Thank you for the privilege of ministering to your family through Kidmania Online. Today's Kidmania Online episode was **CHOSEN FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS!**

This parent info sheet can be used by you at home to support your Kidmania experience WITH your children and help them to get the most out of it.

The 'main ideas' section of this parent info sheet has been designed especially for you to enter into meaningful discussion with your children. This week the questions build one on another.

To help your children really share what is in their hearts and minds with you, and so YOU can actively build faith and wisdom into them, when it comes to the 'Ask' points, take care to not rush them... give them time to think and respond and really show them you are listening and that you understand.

We are here to support you! If you have any questions you would like to discuss please contact your location Kidmania co-ordinator or email me at luke.aiasecca@enjoy.church

God bless you!



Family Ice Breaker – Timing is everything!

This is a fun way to introduce what you will be talking about as a family.

In GAME TIME today we played *our version of the clown mouth game* (that we find at fairs). We watched as Dion sent golf balls down a conduit...across the floor...and into a basket. Our basket moved left and right. Dion needed to choose the right time to send the ball into the moving basket. His timing was very important! *You might like to try this at home.*

You could do as we did - we tied the pencil basket (near the base of the basket) down to a board (to create a pivot point) and had a couple of people take turns at pulling on each side of the mouth of the basket with some fishing wire (to make it move left and right).

OR... you could just have a member of the family turn a wide mouthed cup with their hand, back and forth, regularly enough for each player to predict when it will face them, and so choose their timing.

You might have another idea. Whatever you do, have fun!



1. THIS WEEK - read through the book of Esther together.

In today's episode we used images from the Comic Bible **BIBLEFORCE** to help tell the story of Esther. We highly recommend it. It is available in Koorong Bookstores.

2. Scripture Memory Verses - to read and memorise at meal times

[use any version you like; we have provided the Amplified Version (AMP) in the Scripture readings in the family discussion notes as it has built into it much explanation. For memorisation (below) we have provided the simpler **New Living Translation (NLT)**]

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not be terrified or dismayed (intimidated), for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Esther 4:13-14

Mordecai sent this reply to Esther: "Don't think for a moment that because you're in the palace you will escape when all other Jews are killed. If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?"



The Main Ideas for Family Discussion

Discussion introduction:

Ask: Who is your favorite superhero?

Ask: Have you ever noticed, that in the superhero stories (comics, cartoons, movies, TV etc.) they turn up just in time to do exactly what is needed? [Yes!]

If YES, ask: Can you tell me about it? [let them share their favorite scene/part of the story – when the hero turns up and saves the day.]

Say: Real life heroes don't have superpowers like in the movies. Real life heroes don't fly, real life heroes don't leap tall buildings, and real life heroes can't see through walls. They are people like you and me... but they find themselves in a situation where there is some kind of problem. And, instead of ignoring the problem, they choose to make a difference in the world around them.

Ask: Would you like to be a real life hero?

Say: We can all be real life heroes whom God uses at just the right time.

Say: In real life, our heroes are ordinary people with lots of faith and courage, who decide to do what God has for them to do, at exactly the right time.

Ask: Where do you think their courage comes from?

Say: Their faith comes from trusting God and doing what He says.

Scripture: Joshua 1:9

Say: In Joshua 1:9 it says: **Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not be terrified or dismayed (intimidated), for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.**"

Say: The Bible is full of stories about ordinary people whom God called to do brave/courageous things for Him. The Bible is full of heroes. And since the Bible has been written there have been many more people who believe in Him who have become heroes. You might know about some of them.

Ask: Who is your favorite Bible hero, or Christian hero (in history)? [share with your kids some of your favorites, but leave Esther for the rest of the discussion which you will be leading, with these notes. Your kids may mention Esther, and that is great, let them tell you about her and ask if they have any others.]

Say: They were all ordinary people like you and I. I believe God will give you many opportunities/chances to make a difference in the world and for His Kingdom. It all starts with believing that God is with you wherever you go!

Ask: Do you believe that?

Say: God might have already used you for an important assignment, even a small one, to get you ready for bigger ones!

Ask: Can you think of any of those? Can you tell me about it? [be prepared to share with them a time you can remember when they did something good or right or generous or gracious at just the right time, and it made a difference, especially if it would have been hard for them or cost them personally to do it. Tell them how heroic/valiant it was. Tell them that you noticed, and God noticed, and that God would be wanting to use them again. Share with them about a time God used you to do something for Him where you were someone else's answer to prayer, particularly if it required you to ask God for His help and it required courage. Let them know that God really did help you.]

Say: With God, there is no problem that is too big, and with God, there is no problem we face alone. And often, God sends other people to help us. Sometimes, it is us He sends to help others.

Ask: Did you like the story of Esther?

If YES, ask: What did you like about it?

If NO, ask: What did you not like about it?



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...continued - the Main Ideas for Family Discussion

Say: God made sure that Esther was in a position to help her people.

Scripture: Esther 4:13-14

Say: In Esther 4:13-14 it says: **Then Mordecai told them (Queen Esther's servants) to reply to Esther, "Do not imagine that you in the king's palace can escape any more than all the Jews. For if you remain silent at this time, liberation and rescue will arise for the Jews from another place, and you and your father's house will perish, since you did not help when you had the chance. And who knows whether you have attained royalty for such a time as this, and for this very purpose?"**

Ask: Do you think when Esther was a little girl she would have imagined that she would be a hero to her people and that God would help her?

Ask: Do you think when Mordecai was a little boy he knew that he would have an opportunity to save the king's life... *and* to guide his niece in how obey God and rescue her people?

Say: God knew that Haman would be very offended at Mordecai's faithfulness, and arrange for all the Jews to be killed. He was not surprised. He had a plan. And that plan included Esther. God made sure that Esther was the Queen at exactly that time so that she could go to the king (her husband) and speak for her people. Because the king loved Esther, he let her speak to him and promised to give her what she requested.

Ask: Did Esther ask for more jewelry? [No!]

Ask: Did Esther ask for more dresses and parfum? [No!]

Ask: Did Esther ask for more food? [No!]

Ask: What did Esther ask for? [For the king to spare her people from being killed!]

Ask: Could Esther just go and talk to the king whenever she wanted? [No!]

Say: Even though Esther was the queen she could not just go and talk to the king whenever she wanted! She had to wait for an invitation from the king. If anyone approached the throne without invitation, and the king did not hold out his scepter, the person would be put to death for having no respect for the high honor and power and rule of the king.

Ask: Was Esther fearful? [Yes!]

Ask: Did Esther do it anyway? [Yes!]

Ask: Why did she do it anyway? [Mordecai told her very clearly that if she didn't she would die anyway, and all of the people in her family! He told her that she was born to do this.]

Ask: How did she find the courage to do it? [She prayed to God, and fasted, and asked her people to do the same!]

Ask: What is prayer? [Prayer is talking honestly with God.]

Ask: What is fasting? [Going without food (and sometimes water, and sometimes something else we love) for a set amount of time in order to show God that He is our only need, and He has our full attention, and He is the only answer to our needs. Fasting costs us something and makes our prayers more powerful.]

Ask: What did Esther say to God in her prayer? [Please help me, please let the king accept me, and help me to have the courage to go before him knowing that I could die, and she was in God's hands and would accept whatever God chose for her.]

Ask: Did the king hold out his scepter to Esther? [Yes!]

Ask: What did she say to the king? [she asked him to allow her to approach him.]

Ask: What happened next? [the king asked her what she wanted.]

Ask: How did Esther answer? [God gave Esther wisdom to invite the king and Haman to a banquet that she would prepare for them.]

Ask: Did the king accept Esther's invitation? [Yes!]

Ask: At the banquet, did Esther tell the king about Haman's plan to kill her people? [No!]

Ask: Why not? [She was afraid and she did not think it was exactly the right time]



...continued - the Main Ideas for Family Discussion

Ask: What did she do instead? [She invited the king and Haman to another banquet!]

Ask: Did the king accept Esther's second invitation? [Yes!]

Ask: What happened in between banquet 1 and banquet 2? [the king could not sleep and so during the night read a report about Mordecai (Esther's uncle) saving the king by telling the guards about a plot to kill the king. Mordecai had never been rewarded and so the king asked his prime/first minister Haman how he would honor such a man. Haman thought the king was referring to himself and was very upset when he was ordered to honor Mordecai by leading him in a parade on the king's horse, while wearing a fine robe belonging to the king. Haman had gone to the king to get permission to kill Mordecai but instead was ordered to honor him in public.]

Ask: At the second banquet, did Esther tell the king about Haman's plan to kill her people? [Yes!]

Ask: What did the king do? [he ordered Haman be hanged on the very gallows that Haman had built to hang Mordecai on...Haman's plan had backfired.]

Sum up:

Say: We have learned some great things from Queen Esther.

Say: 1. We can be brave, and make the RIGHT choice.

Say: Esther didn't want to risk her life by approaching the king. We know she was afraid, but she chose to be brave. Being brave is not having NO FEAR...it is making the right choice while you ARE AFRAID. When God calls us, He helps us to do what we could never imagine being brave enough to do.

Say: Say after me: I can be brave and make the right choice!

Say: Say after me: God is with me and will always help me!

Say: 2. When we are facing tough times we can pray and fast.

Say: Esther knew where her help comes from, so she prayed and fasted. Not only did she pray and fast, but she asked others to pray and fast with her. Kids can fast and pray with adults helping them to do it safely.

Say: Say after me: I can fast and pray!

Say: Say after me: I can ask others to fast and pray with me!

Say: 3. We know God has a plan for our lives.

Say: Esther was chosen for such a time as this. We have all been chosen for such a time as THIS, to be hero full of faith, and love, to the world around us. When times are tough, we can't shrink back. We need to stand firm, and be FULL of faith!

Say: Say after me: God has a plan for my life!

Say: Say after me: I am chosen for SUCH A TIME AS THIS!

Let's Pray!

Say: Say after me:

- * Dear Heavenly Father...
- * Thank You for the wonderful example that Esther is.
- * Thank You that You have a great plan for me.
- * Thank You that I will have SUCH A TIME AS THIS moments too.
- * Help me to remember to turn to You and ask for Your help.
- * Help me to have courage when I am afraid.
- * Help me to have wisdom when I don't know what to do.
- * Help me to be strong when I am weak.
- * Help me to speak up when the time is right.
- * Thank You that You are always with me.
- * ...in Jesus' name, Amen!

